

**STATE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION
FULL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
DOVER, DELAWARE**

THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 2016

The June monthly meeting of the Delaware State Human Relations Commission was held by video-conference the Cannon Building, 861 Silver Lake Boulevard, Conference Room A, Dover, Delaware; and the Carvel Building, 820 N. French Street, 4th Floor Executive Conference Room, Wilmington, Delaware.

Attendance:

Commission Members Present: Chairperson Calvin Christopher, Commissioners Mashoor Awad, Whittona Burrell, Erika Caesar, Chok-Fun Chui, Michael Harpe, Rose Mary Hendrix, Gail Launay-Tarlecki, Nancy Maihoff, Walter Smith Jr., Roy Sudler Jr., Robert Watson Jr., and Rosemarie Williams. DAG Paige Schmittinger.

Commission Members not present: Commissioners Jamaal Bivens (excused), Diaz Bonville (excused), Bernice Edwards (excused), Stephen Elkins (unexcused), Earnest Gulab (excused), Doug James (excused), Pameela Kaza (excused), Janet Maull-Martin (excused), Lorenzo Murdaugh (unexcused) and Olga Ramirez (excused).

Staff from Division of Human Relations Office: Romona Fullman, Vincent Petroff, and Kelly Fox.

Members of the public present: None.

I Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Christopher at 7:07: p.m., followed by a period of silent meditation.

II Approval of Minutes

The minutes for the May SHRC meeting were submitted. A motion was made to accept the minutes by Commissioner Harpe Motion was seconded by Commissioner Burrell. A vote was taken, motion carries with no opposition.

III Members of the Public Present

None

IV Chair's Report

<i>Topic / Discussion</i>	<i>Actions to be Taken</i>	<i>Leaders</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
Commission Vacancies – Deferred to Community Response Committee report.			
Committee Assignments – Chair Christopher reported as a result of Commissioner Seemans' resignation the Legislative (LEG) Committee Chair position is vacant. Also, due to Commissioner Dixon's resignation there is now a vacancy on the Governor's Council on Equal Employment Opportunity Committee (GCEEO).	Appoint new Chair for the LEG and a Commissioner on the GCEEO.	Chair Christopher	Undefined
<p>Joint Sunset Committee Review (JSRC) – Chair Christopher discussed the Joint Sunset Committee Review process. The purpose of this review is to determine if the Commission is fulfilling the duties under the governing statutes. Chair Christopher advised review process would likely include review of minutes (Commission and committees). The JSRC might also want information on the function committees and how they have been engaged in advancing the mission. Chair Christopher advised that the Director's report reflects some of the initiatives and activities the Commissioners have supported.</p> <p>Chair Christopher encouraged Commissioners to continue efforts to support the mission of the Commission; including Committees holding Committee meetings, setting objectives and reporting on their progress.</p>			

<p>Delaware Racial Justice Collaborative – Chair Christopher reported this group’s next step is to approach to Governor to request he establish a Civil Rights Commission. He speculated the potential impact this may have on the State Human Relations Commission during the Joint Sunset Review process. Part of the process of is reviewing other states that have created Civil Rights Commissions and their process.</p> <p>Chair Christopher reported they have another meeting scheduled later this month.</p>	<p>Provide updates as they become available.</p>	<p>Chair Christopher</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Homeless Bill of Rights – Chair Christopher reported that this Bill proposed that the Division of Human Relations and the State Human Relations Commission oversee and enforce this. The bill does not provide a financial tag or resources to accomplish this action.</p>			

V Director’s Report

<i>Topic / Discussion</i>	<i>Actions to be Taken</i>	<i>Leaders</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
<p>An electronic version of the Director’s report emailed prior to the meeting this evening; a hard copy was provided in the Commissioner handouts. .</p> <p>Director Fullman asked that Commissioners review links and articles provided in electronic report.</p> <p>Director Fullman asked that Commissioners review Community Outreach activities in the report. She also asked if Commissioners are aware of additional activities they share that information with the Division. A request for participation in activates will be forthcoming.</p>	<p>Review links and articles provided in electronic report</p> <p>Review Community Outreach activities in the report and staff activities as available.</p> <p>Communicate additional outreach opportunities</p>	<p>All Commissioners</p> <p>All Commissioners</p> <p>All Commissioners</p>	<p>Undefined</p> <p>Undefined</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

<p>Director Fullman thanked Commissioner Chui for participating in the film and discussion forum on June 8th. These sessions have provided opportunities for valuable conversations and among the Division staff, Commissioners and the public.</p> <p>Director Fullman expressed a desire for the film and discussion series to continue. However, since Natalie Fountain's grant has expired, Commissioners should be prepared to lead the dialog.</p>			
<p>Homeless Bill of Rights – Director Fullman expressed that as a consequence of the bill passing may be more administrative hearings.</p> <p>Director Fullman thanked Commissioner Ramirez for going to Legislative Hall with her for a hearing on the bill. The presence of Commissioners was important but lacking on this occasion.</p>			

VI Committee Reports

<i>Topic / Discussion</i>	<i>Actions to be Taken</i>	<i>Leader</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
<u>Public Awareness Committee (PAW)</u> – No report			
<p><u>Legislative Committee (LEG)</u> – Commissioner Seemans recently resigned. A new Chair will be appointed.</p> <p>Director Fullman inquired as to whether a quorum of the sitting members of a Committee can hold meeting</p>	Appoint a new chair	Chair Christopher	Undefined

in the absence of a Chair. DAG Schmittinger stated they could as long as there is a quorum.			
<p><u>Community Response Committee (CRC)</u> – Commissioner Maihoff reported the Committee is looking to fill vacancies on the Commission. She asked Commissioners to refer interested persons to apply.</p> <p>During the last Committee meeting 3 candidates were interviewed. Recommendations will be provided.</p> <p>Commissioner Launay-Tarlecki recommended reaching out to Kyle Hodges of the Governor’s Council for Persons with Disabilities or The Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council Partners in Policymaking.</p>	<p>Refer potential candidates to apply.</p> <p>Provide Committee recommendations of appointments.</p>	<p>All Commissioners</p> <p>Commissioner Maihoff</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Undefined</p>
<p><u>Governor’s Council on Equal Employment Opportunity Committee (GCEEEO)</u> – Commissioner Launay-Tarlecki reported the Summit was held on May 19th. Tiffany Jana, from TMI Consulting, was the featured presenter. Commissioner Launay-Tarlecki advised reviewing her website for additional information. One of the highlights of the Summit was the performance of a percussion band out of Wilmington.</p> <p>No meetings to be held in June or July. Will resume in August.</p> <p>Committee Affirmative Action reports are due to State of DE September 15h or October 1st.</p>			

VII Old Business

<i>Topic / Discussion</i>	<i>Actions to be Taken</i>	<i>Leader</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
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<p>Commissioner Maihoff inquired if Commissioner Chui will be available to staff the Gay Pride Festival with her. Commissioner Chui will check her calendar. Director Fullman advised a calendar of activities will be sent out for participation commitments.</p> <p>Commissioner Sudler advised that this Saturday NCALL and Restore Downtown Dover Initiative will be hosting a Community Fair on Loockerman Street in Dover from 9a-12p.</p> <p>Chair Christopher confirmed hat July and August are Executive Committee meetings. However all Commissioners are encouraged to and can attend.</p>			
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VIII New Business

<i>Topic / Discussion</i>	<i>Actions to be Taken</i>	<i>Leader</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
<p>Chair Christopher advised there are envelopes available in both Dover and Wilmington for donations to purchase a gift as a result of Commissioner Edward's husband who passed.</p> <p>A Sunshine Committee will be established for future events.</p>	Establish a Sunshine Committee	Chair Christopher	Undefined

IX Good News

<i>Topic / Discussion</i>	<i>Actions to be Taken</i>	<i>Leader</i>	<i>Due Date</i>
Commissioner Awad's daughter graduated high school.			

<p>Commissioner Harpe's son will be graduating high school</p> <p>Commissioner Burrell's granddaughter graduated from Mt. Pleasant with honors. This coming week another granddaughter and grandson will be graduating.</p> <p>Commissioner Caesar was invited to be on Penn Law's adjunct faculty.</p> <p>Paige Schmittinger is traveling to Wisconsin to participate in a ½ marathon.</p>			
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XI Meeting Adjourned

The Commission meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:52 p.m. by Chair Christopher.